

being rendered surplus due to elimination of steam locomotives; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to absorb those workers in other sectors of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Because of progressive phasing out of steam locomotives, staff engaged on maintenance of these locos is becoming surplus. The surplus staff is not retrenched, instead they are redeployed in alternative categories on Railways by imparting training where considered necessary.

Pilferage of Power in Delhi

1768. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major factors of power crisis in the capital is the theft and pilferage of power:

(b) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has recently detected hundreds of cases of power thefts and pilferage;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to further strengthen DESU's enforcement wing to check power thefts and pilferage; and

(d) the action being contemplated against those found involved in power thefts and pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) While there is no major power crisis in the Capital as such, a large number of cases of theft of electricity have been detected during the raids conducted by officials of DESU in various localities.

(c) and (d) DESU has set up two full fledged Enforcement Divisions for checking theft of electricity in the

Capital which are considered effective. The Government has already made 'theft of electricity' a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

ONGC Share in Narsapur Bridge

1769. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has agreed to give fifty per cent share for the construction of bridge at Narsapur between East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There was a proposal for ONGC to share the cost of a bridge to be put up at Narsapur. It is reported that no construction work has been undertaken.

Reservation Counters of Delhi/New Delhi

1770. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the influence of brokers on reservation counters and black-marketing in sale of railway tickets and inconvenience being caused to the public at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) whether the passengers have to wait for hours for their turn due to the slow speed of work at reservation counters;

(c) if so, the instructions likely to be issued to the staff in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?